

# Opinion 7B

El Paso Times  
Monday, Nov. 1, 2004

El Paso Times

## LETTERS

### Flu flap appalling for this country

Congress has some gall, taking flu shots more deservedly needed by senior adults!

Seniors are not as able to handle illness as others. Their medical expenses are oftentimes overwhelming.

But Congress gets the small number of flu shots available while seniors have to resort to standing in line, hoping there will still be one for them when they reach the front of the line.

I am a teacher who is exposed to all kinds of coughs and complaints, as all teachers are, but I will gladly wait and let my friends and family have the shots.

Why? Because I would hope others would do the same for me.

**Nannette Strain**  
Northeast El Paso

### Stop the pirates

I enjoy going to the various swap meets in El Paso, but lately, I've noticed that they are attracting more thieves. The thieves I'm speaking of are the vendors who sell pirated CDs and movies. I visited one on Alameda recently that had about 15 to 20 such vendors, each with a crowd waiting to get their hands on the latest movie or CD.

Every movie I rent/purchase gives me a scary FBI warning before the movie, every CD has the warning written on it and even when I go to the movies I'm told that this is an illegal practice.

Yet these people are not hiding, they are in plain sight, breaking the law. I talked to some vendors and asked them how the people could do such a thing out in the open.

Shame on the illegal vendors, but most of all, shame on us all for purchasing these items. While people argue that the artists are rich so who cares, what about the vendors who are selling legal CDs and movies, and all the working-class people who work in the music and movie industries?

Plus, theft is theft regardless

## YOUR VIEWS

The El Paso Times welcomes letters to the editor. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity. Limit letters or e-mail to 200 words. Allow 30 days between letters. Provide full name, address, ZIP code and day and evening phone numbers for verification purposes. Letters to the editor, opinion columns and other articles submitted to the Times may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other forms. *Acceptamos cartas en español.*

E-mail: [opinion@elpasotimes.com](mailto:opinion@elpasotimes.com)  
(Microsoft Word documents can be attached)

Fax letters: 546-6343

Mailing address: Letters to the editor, El Paso Times,  
P.O. Box 20,  
El Paso, TX 79999

[elpasotimes.com](http://elpasotimes.com)

ONLINE EXTRA:

► Talk about it at the Times' discussion forums

### Good job!

My compliments to the city of El Paso and Bath Engineering Corp. on a job well done in regards to the water facility project at Festival and Stanton streets.

Clearly, it was well-conceived, thoughtfully executed and shows a genuine sensitivity to the environment and aesthetics. Having recently built a home in this area, I very much appreciate the end product and send much praise to all involved.

**Concetta Beck**  
West El Paso

### 'Check 21' policy

The "Check 21" law has gone into effect. It permits banks to use electronic images of customers' checks rather than "snail mail" for check clearing.

This certainly sounds like a smart, sensible use of modern technology but ... read on.

Banks are *not* required to use the same technology for handling customers' deposits.

So: Our checks will clear in a day or two at most, while our deposits will still take the same amount of time they have been taking to clear.

This is an opportunity for

lions.

And, for many customers, it will also result in checks being returned for insufficient funds, each subject to a bank charge of \$30-\$35, depending on the bank.

Now, perhaps our banks will, in the interest of fairness, handle deposits the same way as checks. Perhaps — but they don't have to.

This is another example of having our laws written by lobbyists and industry PACs rather than lawmakers who place constituency interests before contributor interest.

**Lee Sterne**  
West El Paso

### Improve Sun Metro

As a native of El Paso (currently residing in Denver) I just wanted to say that, even though much improved, the public transportation system in El Paso needs to improve for the people and for business.

El Paso, according to the 2000 U.S. Census data, has more people than the city of Denver. Sun Metro needs to analyze different methods for improving public transportation. For example, investing in a light rail system with park and rides to help get people from one side of town to the other in a shorter period of time.

I believe El Paso is a major city of Texas because of its geographic location and, therefore, in improving public